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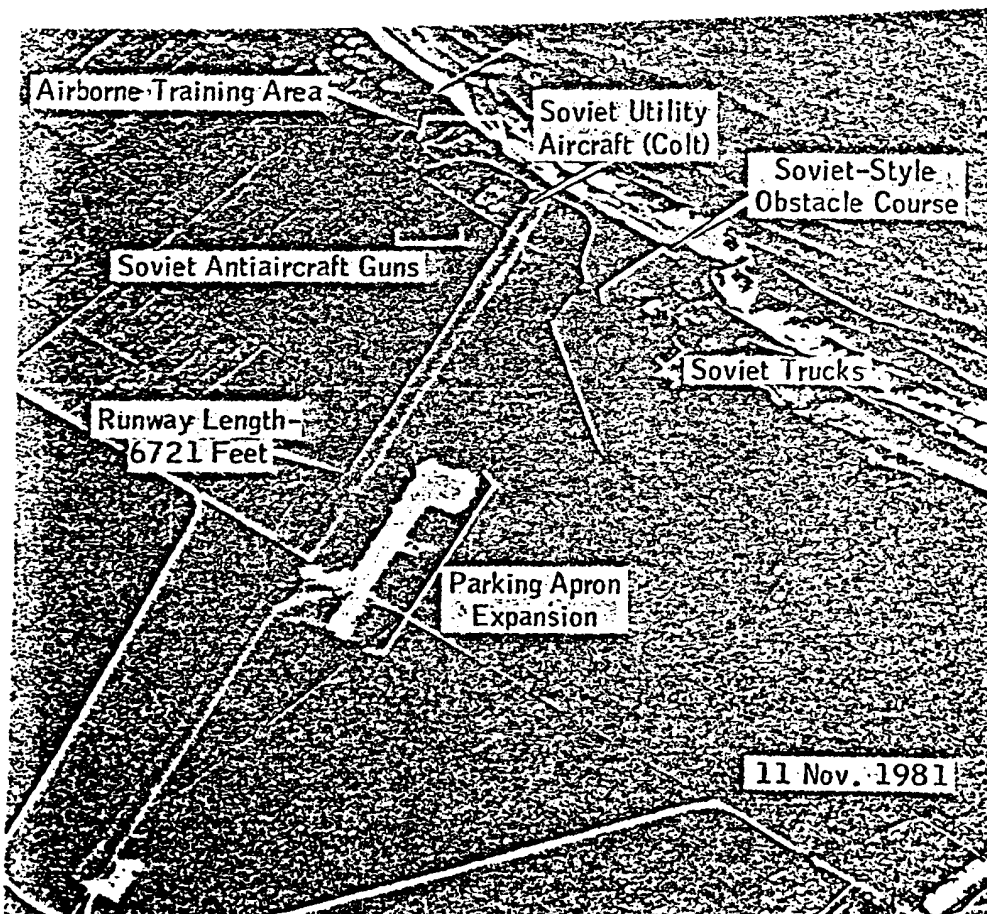
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Aerial Photos Show Buildup In Nicaragua

Soviet/Cuban military buildup in Nicaragua is detailed by these aerial photographs taken recently by U.S. manned reconnaissance aircraft and made available last week by the Defense Dept. Four major airfields are being configured for heavy attack aircraft, according to John T. Hughes, deputy director for intelligence and external affairs of the Defense Intelligence Agency and an interpreter of intelligence photographs. Soviet MiG-17 or MiG-21 aircraft are expected in Nicaragua sometime this year, Hughes said. The airfields include Sandino International Airfield (shown above at left), 8,000 ft. long, near the capital of Managua. In the inset (upper right) of this photograph, two Soviet Mil Mi-8 Hip helicopters are shown (AWST Dec. 21, 1981, p. 20). Hughes said the location of Soviet anti-aircraft guns in this photograph reflects "typical Soviet doctrine" about such emplacements. Just off the main taxiway, Hughes said, U-shaped revetments (lower left in photo above left) have been built for the MiG-type fighter-bomber air-

craft. U.S. officials believe 50 Nicaraguan pilots are currently training in MiGs in Bulgaria and Cuba. Adm. Bobby R. Inman, deputy director of the Central Intelligence Agency, said he had expected the newly trained pilots in Nicaragua in February, "but they're keeping them on for more advanced training. That says it's probably going to be, then, MiG-21s, not the older MiG-17s that will be coming in." The 6,000-ft. Puerto Cabezas Airfield on the Caribbean (top, right) is being lengthened 2,100 ft., Hughes said, and should be finished by the end of this month. Soviet-built anti-aircraft guns are already in place to defend the field, he said. Montelimar Airfield on the Pacific coast (bottom left) is already long enough to handle all Soviet aircraft and is receiving aircraft parking and servicing facilities. "When the pilots return, and the MiGs arrive, and these airfields are completed," Hughes said, the government of Nicaragua "will probably have the best air force in Central America in terms of performance, quality and airfield serviceability." Other Soviet equipment in Nicaragua is believed to include 25 T-55 tanks with 100-mm. guns, 12 truck-drawn howitzers, 12 BTR-60 armored personnel carriers and amphibious military ferries. U.S. officials said there are 2,000 Cuban military and security advisers in Nicaragua and up to 50 Soviet military advisers.



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